

## SUMMARY

Rob Bregman

Ben Wijffelaars expresses his concern to cultivate succulent plants in the near future, given the rapidly rising costs of gas and electricity. He ends with a somewhat ironic comment on a newspaper article, in which the author compared collecting cacti with his hobby to collect different forms of pilewort (*Ficaria verna*), a common weed that needs no wintertime heating.

Theo Heijnsdijk presents another part of his series concerning the 'Verkade' cactus and succulent plant handbooks from the 1930s. This time the subject is *Leuchtenbergia principis*, a well-known cactus from Mexico. The taxonomic history of this peculiarly shaped cactus is still not quite clear. Most likely it was found by the German/Russian botanist Ernst Ludwig von Fischer, member of a Russian expedition during 1840-1843, who named the plant after the duke of Leuchtenberg. However, he apparently (?) did not formally describe the plant. This was done in 1848 by Kew director William Hooker. The same year the German naturalist Albert Dietrich suggested to name the plant *Anhalonium Leuchtenbergii* but this name was not accepted. *L. principis* is reported to occur in 8 different Mexican states, growing at 1000-2100 m altitude; probably because of this large area it is not threatened in nature ('least concern' in the IUCN Red List). In nature, the plants with their soft erect straw-like spines are surrounded by grasses, which make them difficult to find, not only for cactus lovers but also for herbivores. *Leuchtenbergia* is related to *Ferocactus*, *Thelocactus*, *Coryphantha* and *Stenocactus* because hybrids with these genera are known. Flowers are normally borne from the areoles but also from the axils, sometimes even with more than one from a single axil! Beside cuttings, vegetative propagation is also possible by rooting of separate tubercles. Cultivation is without problems but in many collections flowers do not easily occur.

Bertus Spee brings part 121 of his ongoing series entitled 'In the spotlight'. He focuses on *Austrocylindropuntia floccosa*, *Gymnocalycium saglionis*, *Trichocereus candicans* and *Thelocactus macdowellii*.

Andre van Zuijlen recently acquired the complete documentation of the Dutch gardener and Echeveria specialist Joop van Keppel (1923-1983). Van Keppel specialized in the cultivation of hybrids of these popular leaf succulents. In 1951 he became member of 'Succulenta', thereafter even vice-president of the National Cactus and Succulent Society of England. From 1957 on, he wrote approx. 100 articles and a number of books. He translated several books, not only books on succulents but also on gardening.

A second contribution by Andre van Zuijlen is another part of his series of articles called 'A special place'. He reports about a trip to some cactus habitats in Mexico, to that of *Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae* in particular. Andre and his fellow-travellers found many other species as well, such as those of *Ariocarpus*, *Echinocereus*, *Echinocactus*, *Ferocactus*, *Coryphantha*, *Stenocactus*, *Thelocactus*, *Neolloydia*, *Leuchtenbergia* and *Cylindropuntia*, all these plants depicted here.

Also Theo Heijnsdijk wrote a second article. He deals with *Rebutia muscula*, a orange-flowering small globose species from Bolivia. Despite its shady place on his brother's window sill, a 30 year old multi-headed specimen produces dozens of flowers each year.

Henk Viscaal visited Theo Heijnsdijk and his plant collection. Theo has a mixed collection of cacti and other succulents that belong to many different genera. Last year Theo

took over the function of chief editor of our journal after the unexpected death of Ludwig Bercht.

Wolter ten Hoeve compiled a summary of the contents of other journals on succulent plants. He selected some prominent articles in 'Mammillaria', 'Kakteen und andere Sukkulente' and 'Cactusworld'.

At the back page Tom Twijnstra reports to be glad to be able to visit plant sales again, after the Covid restrictions.

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